

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2031

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AFDROUGHT

FOR SHEAR, AFR/CWR

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE RELATED PROJECTS IN WEST AFRICA

1. FAO'S ORGANIZATIONAL COMPARTMENTS, NOT UNLIKE THOSE OF AID, ARE NOT ALWAYS SELF CONTAINED OR SHARPLY DIFFERENTIATED. OSRO FOR EXAMPLE HAS BEEN WORKING PRIMARILY ON SAHELIAN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, BUT SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES ALSO ARE OF CONCERN TO OTHER PARTS OF FAO. AFR/CWR IS ACQUAINTED WITH THIS PHENOMENON WITH RESPECT TO CROP PROTECTION ACTIVITIES, AND TO SOME EXTENT WITH OTHER AGRICULTURE INPUT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SEEDS.

2. ONE SECTION OF OSRO (WAGNER) CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION INPUTS NOT ONLY FOR SHORT TERM BUT FOR THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM ALSO. IT IS IN THIS AREA WHERE THERE IS A GROWING FEELING OF BEING OUT OF TOUCH WITH ANTICIPATED AID FINANCED ACTIVITIES. WHAT IS THE BEST AND SIMPLEST WAY OF FILLING THE GAP?

3. PURPOSE OF PARA 1 ABOVE IS TO SUGGEST (A) THAT OTHER PARTS OF FAO HAVE CLOSE INTERESTS IN WEST AFRICAN PROGRAM, (B) WHILE THE FUTURE OF OSRO IS UNCERTAIN, SOME OF ITS FUNCTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SOME TIME, (C) IT HAS A VERY SPECIFIC INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE REHABILITATION AND PRODUCTION

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PAGE 02 ROME 10020 111640Z

ACTIVITIES, (D) AS LONG AS IT HAS THOSE INTERESTS AND ITS

PRESENT FUNDING FLEXIBILITIES, APPROACHES THROUGH IT ARE VALUABLE MEANS OF INSURING COORDINATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF ACTIVITIES. WAGNER WORKS CLOSELY WITH RELATED ELEMENTS OF THE AGRICULTURE (SEEDS, PLANT PROTECTION, ETC.) AND THE DEVELOPMENT (FIELD PROGRAMS) DEPARTMENTS, AND CAN HELP ASSURE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAO GENERALLY IF WE CAN KEEP HIM POSTED.

4. THE "DO IT FROM THE FIELD END" DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING WELL ENOUGH.

5. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT YOU OR SOMEONE OF YOUR CHOOSING (PERHAPS THE AREA OICS) WELL AWARE OF AID DESIRES AND PROJECT PLANS MIGHT SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS IN ROME FOR DETAILED INTERCHANGES, AFTER WHICH A SELECTED FLOW OF DOCUMENTS MIGHT WELL SUFFICE.

6. SOMEWHAT RELATED QUESTION IS WHETHER STATE 159905 MIGHT BE DECONTROLLED AND GIVEN TO OSRO.VOLPE

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